

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 14 and 15 are amended make them read more grammatically correct.

The paragraphs 2 and 3 of the final office action, claims 1-4, 5-9, 11-14, and 16-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ratcliff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,438) hereinafter Ratcliff, in view of Lioy (U.S. Patent No. 6775553) hereinafter Lioy. The rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Ratcliff discloses a data processing system in which a host has multiple partitions and a Host-To-Network-Interface (HNI) provides for communication between the host and the network. Ratcliff is an example of the prior art before the invention claimed in the present invention. As described in the previous amendment, in Ratcliff the address is assigned before a message is sent to a network. See for instance column 5, lines 31-33, "As is well known, the device address identifies both the application sending the commands and the partition that the application is executing in. Specifically, the device address is available on the internal process busses and on the ESCON Multiple Image Facility ('EMIF') channels." Further, at column 5, lines 56-59, "When an initialization sequence is detected by the HNI, an entry is added for the initiating application to the network to host connection table, referred to herein as a 'connection table'."

Also, it is clear that in Ratcliff, the HNI is not in the network (fabric), but is between a port and the host. See column 6, lines 38-40, "Such processing begins with the receipt of a data frame from a network through a port and into the HNI (105)." Also, see column 7, lines 47-49, "An outbound data

frame flows from an application in a partition to an HNI and out a port to a network." See also Fig. 4.

Since the HNI must process each inbound and outbound frame for its destination, it is submitted that the connection table must be in the memory 83 of the HNI. See column 5, lines 53-59, "According to the techniques of the present invention, a common HNI is responsive to initialization sequences from multiple applications in multiple partitions (Fig. 5-101). When an initialization sequence is detected by the HNI, an entry is added for the initiating application to a network to host connection table, referred to herein as a 'connection table' (103)."

Independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 have been amended to make clear that the assigning is done in the fabric, and not in the channel adapter 104, as is done in Ratcliff. Further, claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 are amended to make clear that the sender of a message between the fabric and the partition sees multiple channel adapters and wherein the channel adapter is a channel adapter with multiple addresses. This is supported in paragraph [0019] of the specification. Also, the address identifications assigned by the fabric are stored in a table in the fabric. Thus, in claims 1-20, the addresses of the partitions is assigned in the fabric and stored in the fabric, whereas in Ratcliff, the addresses are already assigned before a message is sent from the host to the network, and the HNI builds a connection table in the HNI.

Liroy discloses a peer-to-peer wireless communication network wherein IP addresses are established in the network. In Liroy, a requester negotiates for IP addresses by sending a configure-request to a peer with a suggested IP address. If the suggested address is not acceptable, then a configure-Nak is returned, and the requester sends a new suggestion. This continues until an

address that is acceptable to both peers is found, and a configure-Ack is returned. (see column 3, line 66 to column 4, line 11). Thus, in Lioy, the address is not assigned by the fabric, but rather by negotiations between the peers, and a table of the address identifications is not stored in the fabric, as claimed.

In paragraph 4, claims 5, 10, 15 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ratcliff in view of Lioy, and further in view of Kanemaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6081845) hereinafter Kanemaki. Kanemaki discloses a server which can inform a calling terminal of an address suitable for an intended communication with a receiving terminal among a plurality of addresses usable for that purpose. Kanemaki does not include a system having partitions in which unique address identifications are associated with the respective partition sending a request and in which the address identification is assigned by a fabric and wherein the addresses are stored in a table in the fabric, as claimed.

It is submitted that the present amendment is a proper amendment after a final rejection because it places the application in condition for allowance. It is also respectfully submitted that claims 1-20 as amended are allowable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ratcliff in view of Lioy, and that claims 1-20 as amended are allowable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ratcliff in view of Lioy and further in view of Kanemaki, which allowance is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

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